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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/540,776 03/31/00 HOY

S HOY-00103/03

IM22/0501

EXAMINER

JOHN G POSA
GIFFORD KRASS & GROH
280 N OLD WOODWARD AVE SUITE 400
BIRMINGHAM MI 48009

BHAT, N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1761

DATE MAILED:

05/01/01

11

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Patent and Trademark Office

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE

1M22/0501

JOHN G POSA
GIFFORD KRASS & GROH
280 N OLD WOODWARD AVE SUITE 400
BIRMINGHAM MI 48009

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
09/540,776	03/31/00	012	BHAT, N	1761 05/01/01
First Named Applicant	HOY, 35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.			

TITLE OF INVENTION EDIBLE ANIMAL GREETING CARDS

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEES DUE	DATE DUE
1 HOY-00103/03	426-087.000	F66	UTILITY	YES	\$620.00	08/01/01

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.

THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.

HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number.
Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE COPY

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/540,776	HOY, STEPHEN B.	
	Examiner N. Bhat	Art Unit 1761	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

Time

1. This communication is responsive to Extn. of Item, Amendment, IDS of 1-16-01 and Supplement Amendment & TD of 4/23/01.
 2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
 3. The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable as formal drawings.
 4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: _____.
5. Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE FOR SUBMITTING NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS , OR A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION. This three-month period for complying with the REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL is extendable under 37 CFR 1.136(a).

6. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.
7. Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review(PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

8. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any reply to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE / SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment / Comment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |


N. Bhat
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 1761

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DETAILED ACTION / Examiner's Comments

1. During a telephone conversation with Mr. Posa on April 23, 2001, Mr. Posa was informed that the case was basically in condition for allowance but a Terminal Disclaimer was necessary over the parent application. Mr. Posa agreed to fax the examiner a properly executed terminal disclaimer. Mr. Posa then indicated that a preliminary amendment was recently sent in on this application and questioned whether this amendment was in the case. The examiner indicated the last correspondence was from January 16, 2001. The examiner asked applicant to fax the amendment so that it can be entered.

2. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and, *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

3. Claims rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3 of U.S. Patent No. 6,036,412.

Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the single inventive concept which is generic to both the instant application and that of the patent is directed to an edible greeting card for a pet which

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suitable for ingestion by a pet comprising at least one edible panel; having aside edge; a plurality of holes formed along the side edge of each rawhide panel and an elongated strip of pet-edible material laced through the holes thereby forming a hinge between the panels. The difference between the instant application and that of the patent is very slight in as both application claim the edible greeting card for pets but in the instant application the claims recite that the graphical images is embossed into the raw hide panel which would have been an obvious method of providing a graphical image onto a rawhide panel to one having ordinary skill in the art where the a generic teaching of providing a graphical image on a raw hide panel.

4. Applicant has provided the Office with a timely filed and properly executed terminal disclaimer, which has obviated the obviousness-type double patenting rejection. The claims are free of the prior art and this case is now in condition for allowance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to N. Bhat whose telephone number is 308-3879. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 703-308-3959. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-7718 for regular communications and 703-305-3599 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0651.

NBhut
NINA BHAT
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1300